



Att: H.E. Mr Wadee Batti Hanna Al-Batti
Permanent Delegation of Iraq to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M6.37 - M6.42 1
rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Friday, 2 June 2023

RE: SENNACHERIB'S AQUEDUCT AT JERWAN

[via. e-mail: dl.irak@unesco-delegations.org]

Your Excellency,

We, the Board of Directors of the ACSYA Inc., are deeply concerned with reports that Peshmerga forces have set-up a military training site at Sennacherib's aqueduct at Jerwan (modern-day Nineveh Governorate). Photographs, captured Wednesday, 20 April 2022, demonstrate that training equipment was drilled onto the archaeological site thus damaging this millennia-old site.

Such actions may represent a violation to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, commonly known as the 1954 Hague Convention. Under the terms of the 1954 Hague Convention, it is unlawful for State Parties, individuals, or groups to engage in armed conflict or military operations that expose heritage sites to potential destruction and/or damage.

We request that the Permanent Delegation of Iraq to UNESCO seek an urgent update from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) on how it plans to address these deepening concerns as well as what steps it is taking to protect Indigenous Assyrian heritage sites in the region.

Thank you.

Regards,

Board of Directors,
ACSYA Inc.